

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 14th, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Barb Geedey
Braedon Walton & Grace Miller
Brea Beward, Haley & Olivia Mummah
Chris Martin & Missy Ehrisman

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 14, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our rock and refuge,

C we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN

"Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult"

#494 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

* KYRIE (C- sung)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” – In Unison)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

^{All}
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

FIRST READING.....1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (responsively)

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

* GOSPEL.....John 1:43-51

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Leister
Pastor Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak" #403 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

* PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C **for through these gifts he comes to feed us.**

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C **Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.**

P Let us come to his table with joy.

C **for we come as God's invited guests.**

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

*** LAMB OF GOD (sung)**

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

["At the Chancel Rail"] – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in their seat for communion).

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always.

C **Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

* SENDING HYMN

“Let All Things Now Living”

#557 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C **Thanks be to God.**

* POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Gabby & Stella Reed

NEXT WEEK’S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Grace Miller, Nick & Sofia Reed

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Chris Martin & Missy Ehrisman (1/8/24 – 1/21/24)

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus’ promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

JUST A THOUGHT – Bruce Kemper, College President: Each of us, as members of the Body of Christ, has been given at least one spiritual gift.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS **THURSDAY NOON.**

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are

placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

THE YOUTH OF BOTH MESSIAH AND ST. STEPHEN’S LUTHERAN CHURCHES will be holding fundraisers in the coming months to support both work trips and the 2024 Youth Gathering in late July in New Orleans. Please see Christina Martin for cards to signify that you want to participate in the fundraisers at the Tyson Hill OIP and/or Harshbarger’s Subs and Malts. Below are the dates and locations of the upcoming fundraisers:

February 7th – Tyson Hill OIP

March 12th – Harshbarger’s Subs & Malts

Thank you for supporting the youth of our churches!!

JANUARY’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for the local fire victims in McAlisterville and Mifflintown during the week prior to Christmas. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to funds aiding these community members who lost their belongings in these terrible fires. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

BIBLE STUDY WILL CONTINUE on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will be studying the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Anyone is welcome to attend.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2024 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly (date to be announced). If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Leister or the church office. PPC will approve the 2 delegates at their January meeting.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

A HUGE “THANK YOU” to all who donated items for the “Reverse Advent Calendar” project. The amount contributed to the Food Pantry was 420 pounds of food items. Pat Brown shared that this year they were especially desperate for cereal and chicken noodle soup.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Shelter Service, Inc. in Lewistown:

- Laundry Detergent
- Shaving Cream
- Clorox
- Shampoo
- Dryer Sheets
- Deodorant
- Dish Soap
- Body Wash

Please place items in the Adult Sunday School Room in the container provided.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

BASIC FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER;
OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES;
VICKS; AND ANY HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS.

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -5:00 p.m., Lions Club meeting in Fellowship Hall.
-6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Library area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary.
- Thursday:** -7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, JCPASR in Kitchen and Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Quilter's Guild in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik	Sylva Grimm	Betty Ranck
Jeremy Barnes	Fred Gross	Keith Ranck
Ryan Barr	Hannah Hart	Dave Reed
Donna Barton	Nox Hepburn	Diane Rowles
Gary Bechtold	Judy Hosler	Kelley Rusenko
Family of Bruce Bradley	Nancy Howell	Mandy Saint
Linda Brouse	Erin Husler	Ron & Arlene Shearer
Andrea Cameron	Terry Imes	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Terry Coder	Annie Ingle	Donna Stoner
Rob Davis	Guy Kerstetter	Barry Strawser
Fred & Dot Dowling	Jesse Kint	Vicki Suoja
Seth Dowling	Carlen McClure	Tonya Tabb
Kim Dumais	Alice McClure	Dorothy Towsey
Freda Durio	Andi McDanel	Molly Ulsh
Cathy Dysinger	Cecilia Miller	George Varner
Renee Dzikowski	Curt Miller	Doug Wagner
Kathie Eichenberger	Ellwood Miller	Roscoe Warner
Neil & Pat Fisher	Larry Miller	Mary Jane Williamson
Kevin Fetterhoof	Shirley Miller	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Bentley Fulkroad	Claire Mummah	Family of Terry Yetter
Terri Gayer	Carole Nace	Gary Zeiders
Deb Geedey	Donna Parks	Paul Zeiders
Bob & Eddi Kay Gill	Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks	George Zimmerman
Sheree Goss	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Rich Smith – Artis Memory Care, 150 N. 12th St., Lemoyne, PA 17043
- Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- Edith Nipple – 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044